

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 14 and 15 are allowed.

On the second page of the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that Applicants' request for reconsideration has been considered but does not place the application in condition for allowance. In the Office Action mailed on June 6, 2006, claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP 01-007669 (Ariga).

Ariga is directed to a gas laser oscillator. Applicants respectfully submit that not only is the gas laser oscillator in a different field than that of the present invention, the purpose of Ariga is different from that of the present invention. In contrast to Ariga, for example, one of the purposes of at least one embodiment of the present invention is to excite a laser medium gas uniformly and to obtain laser beams at a stable mode. The laser beams are obtained by forming a contact surface with an electrode on a cross section, vertical to the direction of the laser induction of a discharge tube to a recessed shape, in the relationship of a distance with an internal surface corresponding to the contact surface.

In at least one embodiment of the present invention, an entireness of at least one electrode among said plurality of electrodes is placed thoroughly inside of a recess portion (10a) formed on an external surface of a tubular body. As a result, positional shift does not occur between the entire electrode thoroughly placed inside of the recess portion and the tubular body. See specification of the present invention, page 10, lines 4-8. See also FIG. 3 and FIG. 4

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Ariga, as Ariga fails to disclose, "an entireness of at least one electrode among said plurality of electrodes is placed thoroughly inside of said recess portion," as recited in currently amended independent claim 1.

On the third page of the Advisory Action, the Examiner noted that, in Ariga, the entire electrode is not located inside the gap. As illustrated in Figure 5 and as acknowledged by the Examiner, only a very small portion of the electrode (21d) is placed inside the gap in Ariga. Therefore, in contrast to the present invention, in which the entire electrode is placed inside of the recess portion, in Ariga, only a portion of the electrode is located in the gap. See Ariga, Figure 5.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the reference, as the reference fails to disclose the above-identified feature of claim 1. As dependent claims 2-8 depend from independent claim 1, the dependent claims are patentable over the reference for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

If there are any formal matters remaining after the response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

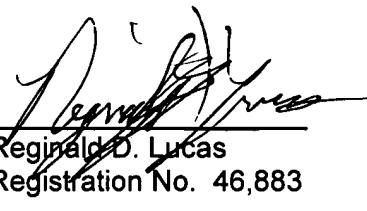
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 10/6/00

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